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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,039	10/30/2006	Franck Baldet	2723-0146PUS1	6989
2292 7590 05/19/2009 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
EXAMINER				
YOUNG, EDWIN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3655				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/19/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/552,039

Applicant(s)

BALDET, FRANCK

Examiner

EDWIN A. YOUNG

Art Unit

3655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 39-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 39-76 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the preliminary amendment filed 10/30/2006. Claims 1-38 have been cancelled and new claims 39-76 have been added. Claims 39-76 are currently pending in this application.

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

1. Species drawn to a rear-drive vehicle characterized in that when cornering the central control unit reduces the lock percentage of the differential when the accelerator pedal is pressed and increases the lock percentage of the differential when the accelerator pedal is released;
2. Species drawn to a rear-drive vehicle characterized by comprising two torque sensors and the central control unit controlling the regulating device to regulate the lock percentage of the differential as a function of the value of the torque transmitted by the self-locking differential to each rear wheel;
3. Species drawn to a rear-drive vehicle characterized in that when cornering at substantially steady speed, the central control unit estimates the road grip of the wheels, zeroes the lock percentage of the differential when the road grip of the wheels is far from the grip limit, and gradually increases

the lock percentage of the differential when the road grip of the wheels
nears the grip limit; and

4. Species drawn to a rear-drive vehicle characterized in that when driving
along a substantially straight route, the central control unit zeroes the lock
percentage of the differential in normal driving mode, and gradually
increases the lock percentage of the differential in sport driving mode.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the
claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply
must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims
subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are
generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration
of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include
all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims
are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the
elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following
manner:

Species 1: claims 39-61;

Species 2: claim 62-68;

Species 3: claims 69-75; and

Species 4: claim 76.

The following claim(s) are generic: no claims appear to be generic.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Each species regulates the lock percentage of the differential in a distinct manner as described in the species' description above.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWIN A. YOUNG whose telephone number is (571)272-4781. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/E. A. Y./
Examiner, Art Unit 3655

/Sherry L Estremsky/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655